

C. Remarks

The claims are 1 and 4-6 with claim 1 being independent. Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the invention. Applicants submit that the amendments made herein are fully supported throughout the application as filed (see, e.g., Figures 5A, 5B and 6 and corresponding description in paragraphs [0121] - [0123], [0128] and [0129] in corresponding U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0190051); accordingly, no new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the present claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants note that the Office Action Summary sheet indicates that the Examiner objects to the drawings. However, the Examiner's previous objection to the drawings was addressed in the response filed on June 2, 2008. In fact, the Examiner acknowledged that the drawing objection had been overcome in the final Office Action dated October 3, 2008, at page 5, item 5 therein. Accordingly, Applicants hereby request that the Examiner confirm that there are no outstanding issues with the drawings.

Claims 1 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly obvious over Watanabe (U.S. Patent No. 5,689,289) in view of Casey (U.S. Patent No. 6,097,499). Claim 2 stands rejected as being allegedly obvious over Watanabe in view of Casey and further in view of Iwasaki (U.S. Patent No. 6,328,403). Claims 3, 4 and 6 stand rejected as being allegedly obvious over Watanabe in view of Casey and Iwasaki and further in view of either Clark (U.S. Patent No. 7,265,856) or Iwasaki '961 (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0175961). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

In the present invention, a capacity of the print buffer equipped by the printing apparatus is smaller than the data amount that may be printed through one main scan of the printhead. The print buffer is divided into a plurality of first regions and each first region is divided into a plurality of second regions in correspondence with the number of color components as shown in Fig. 6. The block data 209 includes the code which represents a data delimiter between first color component data and second color component data. The data are stored in the second region of the print buffer based on the determination of the code.

As described above, according to the present invention, a plurality of block regions (the first regions) along the scanning direction of the printhead are assigned to the print buffer, and each block region is divided into a plurality of second regions in correspondence with the number of color components. By virtue of this feature, a processing is efficiently performed in which the printing apparatus receives raster data corresponding to the block regions divided along the scanning direction from a host apparatus, the data is decompressed, the data is processed by HV conversion, and the data is stored in the print buffer for each color.

None of the cited references discloses or suggests all of the key features of the present invention. More specifically, none of the cited references (whether considered alone or in any combination) discloses or suggests that a print buffer is configured as shown in Fig. 6 and as now set forth in independent claim 1, that the received data includes a code between the first color component and the second color component (Figs. 5A and 5B), and that the data is stored based on the code. For at least these reasons, it is clear that

the presently claimed invention is not rendered obvious by the cited references.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the §103 rejections.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and passage to issue is earnestly requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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